IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: POLIS

Title: COMPUTERIZED CONTROL
SYSTEM LOCATED AT AN
ORDER CENTER FOR
SHIPPING PRODUCT FROM A
REMOTELY LOCATED
DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Appl. No.:   09/149,650

Filing Date: September 8, 1998

Examiner: Monfeldt, Sarah M.

Art Unit: 3694

Confirmation   5293
Number:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~including the steps of~~ , comprising:

receiving an order for a product from an ordering computer, via a digital network, at a computer system of an order center;

receiving waybill data from a computer of a shipper, via the digital network, at the computer system of the order center;

linking, by the computer system of the order center, the waybill data from the computer of the shipper to the product;

forming, by the computer system of the order center, an electronic communication comprising a waybill corresponding to the waybill data and a packing list corresponding to the product linked to the waybill data; and

sending, by the computer system of the order center, ~~processing the order and the waybill data, with the computer system, so as to produce an~~ the electronic communication to a distribution center computer system, the electronic communication being configured to be printed at a printer associated with the distribution center computer system as a waybill and a packing list for use with shipment of the product from the distribution center ~~which is output to the digital network and which corresponds to one sheet comprising a waybill and a specification of the product that fulfills the order by a shipment of the product with the waybill, the waybill corresponding to the waybill data received from the shipper~~.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including associating a customer-specified delivery date with the order.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including associating credit or charge card information with a customer-specified delivery date for a delayed order such that the card information corresponding to the order is available at a time of the shipment of the delayed order.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including sending a communication, from the computer system to a financial institution computer system, so as to only initiate a payment corresponding to the order at a time subsequent to the shipment of the product with the waybill.

5 - 6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including sending a first communication prior to the shipment, from the computer system to a financial institution computer system, to verify card availability, and sending a second communication subsequent to the shipment, from the computer system to a financial institution computer system, so as to initiate payment corresponding to the order being fulfilled.

8 – 13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving an order is carried out via a web page which automatically triggers the electronic communication to be sent so as to be received at [[a]] the distribution center.

15 -28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic communication communicates a delivery date.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic communication communicates a ship date and a delivery date.

31-502. (Cancelled).

503. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory including computer program code, the memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to perform at least the following:

receiving an order for a product from an ordering computer, via a digital network, at a computer system of an order center;

receiving waybill data from a computer of a shipper, via the digital network, at the computer system of the order center; and

sending, by the computer system of the order center, an electronic communication to a distribution center computer system, the electronic communication comprising a waybill corresponding to the waybill data received from the computer of the shipper and a specification of the product that fulfills the order.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to further examination of the present application subsequent to the filing of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims, claims 1-4, 7, 14, 29, 30 and 503 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date _____   By _____

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